

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the change to the specification at page 1, lines 4-7 which was made in the Preliminary Amendment filed 19 November 2003, as follows.

This is a continuation of Serial No. 10/283,143 filed October 30, 2002, pending, which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/478,343, filed January 5, 2000 (US 6,480,447 B1), and is related to Serial No. 10/715,378 filed 19 November 2003, which is a continuation of Serial No. 10/283,143, and to Serial No. 10/074,049 filed February 14, 2002 (US 6,552,977 B1), which is a division of Serial No. 09/478,343, the subject matter of all of which is are incorporated herein by reference.

Page 2, line 8 through page 3, line 9:

A method that applies a wave form equalization processing to a reproducing signal and reduces the inter-symbol interference has been employed in the past as means for lowering the mark pitch. Hereinafter, this equalization processing method will be explained with reference to Fig. 7 that schematically shows the wave form equalization processing. A reproducing signal 404 106 is inputted to an amplitude adjustment circuit 500-1 and to a delay circuit 510-2. The amplitude adjustment circuit 500-1 multiplies the reproducing signal 404 106 by a predetermined multiple in accordance with the equalization coefficient signal 502-1 outputted from a coefficient generator 504 501-1. When the equalization coefficient signal 502-1 is C1, for example, the reproducing signal

404 106 is multiplied by C1 by a multiplication circuit 505-1 contained in the amplitude adjustment circuit 500-1, and is outputted as a signal-after amplitude adjustment 520-1. On the other hand, the reproducing signal 404 106 inputted to the delay circuit 510-2 is delayed by a predetermined delay amount and is converted to a signal-after-delay 511-2. The equalization processing comprises a plurality of processing as shown in Fig. 7, and is therefore executed serially. In consequence, ~~signals-after-amplitude adjustment~~ signal-after-amplitude adjustments 520-1 to 520-n, each receiving an intrinsic delay amount and an intrinsic amplitude change, are acquired. These ~~signals-after-amplitude~~ signal-after-amplitude adjustments 520-1 to 520-n are added by an addition circuit 530 and a signal-after-equalization 108 is outputted consequently. If the each equalization coefficient signal 502-1 to 502-n outputted from each coefficient generator 501-1 to 501-n is set in advance to an appropriate value, the amount of the inter-symbol interference contained in the signal-after-equalization 108 can be drastically reduced. These equalization coefficients and delay amounts are set in most cases to optimum values that are determined experimentally. Incidentally, when  $n = 3$ , the processing is referred to as "3-tap equalization ~~processing~~" processing," and when  $n = 5$ , "5-tap equalization ~~processing~~"- processing."